United Nations

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ High-level negotiations concerning Security Council resolutions relating to oil sales by Iraq to begin in New York on 7 July.

+ General Cedras of Haitian Armed Forces says he is in New York to discuss conditions for President Aristide's return to Haiti and to ensure security of all sectors in country; spokesman says President Aristide will only meet General Cedras after agreement has been reached.

+ One Pakistani UNOSOM solider, two Somali gunmen killed in Mogadishu; Special Representative says security will improve when militias are under control; hopes "coercive disarmament" will soon lead to "cooperative disarmament".

+ Secretary-General tells European Social Ministers of need for humanistic vision of social policy.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in Geneva, has announced that high-level negotiations concerning the application of Security Council resolutions 706 (1991) and 712 (1991) will take place in New York beginning on 7 July, according to a United Nations spokesman. Those resolutions relate to oil sales and economic sanctions against Iraq.

The Secretary-General expressed confidence that the attempted assassination of former United States President George Bush and the action taken by the United States against Iraq on Saturday, of which he had been informed beforehand by President Clinton, would not be an obstacle to the negotiations. The Secretary-General also expressed the wish that the negotiations would contribute to a peaceful solution of the problem, in conformity with the United Nations Charter.

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For information media—not an official record

The Commander-in-Chief of the Haitian Armed Forces, General Raoul Cedras, today said he was attending talks in New York to discuss conditions for President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's return to Haiti and to ensure the security of all sectors in the country. General Cedras told correspondents that he and the President had to be together to ensure Haiti's future.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for President Aristide said the President would only meet with General Cedras after an agreement had been hammered out because "we view such a meeting as a celebration and we have nothing to celebrate yet".

The Haiti talks, now in their third day, are aimed at setting a date for the return of President Aristide; the resignation of the Army High Command; the transfer of power to a democratic government; the deployment of an international police force and the appointment of a new Prime Minister. The talks are being conducted by the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Haiti, Dante Caputo.

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A Pakistani solider serving with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) died after being shot yesterday in Mogadishu, and two Somali gunmen were killed when UNOSOM forces responded to the incident, according to a United Nations spokesman. UNOSOM forces manned checkpoints and strong-points and conducted routine patrols in the city today.

Special Representative Admiral Jonathan Howe said that security in Somalia would improve when forces like General Mohamed Farah Aidid and his militia were under control. Admiral Howe also said that he hoped that the process of "coercive disarmament" would soon lead to one of "cooperative disarmament".

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said that at a time of dramatic transformations in Europe and elsewhere, a humanistic and encompassing vision of social policy is needed. Peace, prosperity and freedom could only be attained if the contributions of all citizens were taken into account, he said yesterday in a message to the European Conference of Ministers Responsible for Social Affairs, in Bratislava.

The framework for a comprehensive vision was coming into focus, the Secretary-General stressed. The United Nation Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) had redefined the dimensions of environmental issues and the need for global solutions. The World Conference on Human Rights had highlighted human rights as a fundamental prerequisite for peace, development and progress. The 1994 International Year of the Family would underscore the importance of the family in integrating social, economic, environmental and human rights issues. And in 1995, the World Summit for Social Development would emphasize the importance of social concerns, and seek to integrate the social dimension into the evolving global framework, he said.

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